

GYCC at Work

On an annual basis, dependent upon the availability of funds, the GYCC supports projects that help further the goals and priorities of the GYCC. Projects are selected based on how well they address priorities, whether they provide benefits across the ecosystem rather than to just one unit, and how well they leverage additional funds through partnerships.

In 2000, the GYCC funded 30 projects that focused

heavily on invasive species, cutthroat trout, whitebark pine conservation, improving land patterns, recreation, and wildlife. Sixty partners contributed nearly \$300,000 toward these projects. Thirteen projects facilitated internal partnerships between GYCC units.

For 2001, the GYCC provided continued funding for 8 projects started in 2000, and funded 26 new projects. Projects for both years are briefly summarized below.

Noxious Weed Management			
Coordinated Noxious Weed Control Efforts			
Unit	Project	Description	Partnerships
Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF	Madison Ranger District Backcountry Weed Management	Backcountry weed inventory, control, prevention, and education primarily in the Gravelly Mountains.	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; Madison Valley Ranchland Group; Madison County Weed Board
Bridger-Teton NF	Integrated Noxious Weed Control	Working with partners to control 150 acres of noxious weeds.	Habitat Trust Fund; Wyoming Game and Fish; Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; Jackson Hole Weed Management Area
Bridger-Teton NF	Purge Spurge	Eradicate leafy spurge along riparian areas in the Salt River Range of the Star Valley front.	Highlands Cooperative Weed Management Area; Lincoln County
Custer NF	Rock Creek/Beartooth Highway Noxious Weed Project	Control spotted knapweed and leafy spurge that is expanding beyond the Beartooth Highway right-of-way.	Montana Dept. Fish Wildlife and Parks; Rock Creek Resort; City of Red Lodge; Carbon County Weed District; 400 Ranch; Rocky Creek Ranch
Caribou-Targhee NF	Black Canyon/Dry Canyon Leafy Spurge Control Program	Control spurge with sheep grazing and flea beetles on 2,500 acre infestation of spurge; monitor effectiveness.	Utah/Idaho Weed Management Area; Jeffe Roche L&L Co.; Dry Canyon Cattlemen's Association; Sterling Bingham
Grand Teton NP National Elk Refuge, Bridger-Teton NF	Gros Ventre River Corridor Spotted Knapweed Project	Continue project initiated last year to control knapweed seed sources located on major elk migration routes; expand control efforts to less accessible places.	Teton Weed and Pest; Jackson Hole Weed Management Area
Cooperative Weed Management Areas (WMA), Education and Awareness			
Gallatin NF	Upper Gallatin Invasive Species Project	Formally establish Upper Gallatin WMA. Expand education, awareness and control efforts.	Gallatin County Weed District; Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Big Sky Institute
Gallatin NF	Upper Yellowstone Weed Management Area	Establish a WMA for the Upper Yellowstone watershed.	Park County; BLM; Montana Dept. Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Yellowstone NP
Grand Teton NP	Student Conservation Association (SCA) Position for Noxious Weed Education Campaign	Fund 1 student conservation associate for 6 months to work with Jackson Hole Weed Management Area on weed awareness.	Teton County Weed & Pest; Student Conservation Association
GYCC All units	GYCC Weed Awareness Tools	Prepare internal awareness and training tools including power point presentations and GYCC Pocket Guide.	Center for Invasive Plant Mgmt.; MSU; Montana Weed Control Education Committee; Cooperative Ecosystems Study Unit

Inventory and Mapping Projects			
Unit	Project	Description	Partnerships
Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF	Madison Valley Weed Inventory Project	Develop a comprehensive weed inventory for all lands. Expand upper Madison WMA to include entire valley.	Madison County Ranchland Group; Madison County Weed Board; BLM
Caribou-Targhee NF	Pallisades Wilderness Study Area Monitoring and Noxious Weed Control	Control noxious weed infestations discovered last year. Inventory trails to relocate out of riparian areas. Monitor recreation and grazing use.	Upper Snake Weed Management; Area Bureau of Reclamation; Back Country Horsemen; Palisades Mitigation project; Palisades Creek Ranch
Gallatin NF	Gardner Basin Noxious Weed Inventory	Map distribution and density of weeds, model potential spread on a key portion of the northern winter range.	Foundation for North American Wild Sheep; Montana State University; Montana Dept. Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Shoshone NF	Shoshone Invasive Species Project	Complete inventory of forest, treat wilderness infestations, and establish Upper Wind River Weed Management Area.	BLM; Fremont County; Cody Conservation District; South Central Wyoming College
Yellowstone NP	SW Yellowstone Backcountry Weed Survey and Control	Survey 10,000 acres for leafy spurge and other priority species. Increase prevention, early detection and containment along access roads.	Idaho Dept. of Agriculture; Fremont County, Idaho; Henrys Fork Weed Management Area Caribou-Targhee NF
Wildlife Studies and Projects			
Caribou-Targhee NF	Trumpeter Swan Nest Habitat Restoration	Improve water levels and nesting habitat for trumpeter swans nesting at four lakes (Swan, Beaver, Ernst, Mesa Marsh).	Trumpeter Swan Society; Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Ducks Unlimited; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Caribou-Targhee NF	Wolverine Natal Denning Habitat Mapping and Field Surveys	Run GIS model to map potential wolverine den habitat on Caribou NF; conduct additional aerial & ground surveys.	Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game; Univ. of California at Santa Cruz
Gallatin NF	Effects of Backcountry Human Use on Bears and Other Large Carnivores	Final year of a four-year project addressing the relationship of bears to human backcountry activities during hunting season.	Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team; Montana Dept. Fish, Wildlife & Parks; Hells a Roarin Outfitters; Student Volunteers
Grand Teton NP, Caribou-Targhee NF	Wolverine Survey and Monitoring	Evaluate wolverine habitat use and den selection in relation to human recreation use.	Wildlife Conservation Society; Hornocker Institute; Wyoming Game and Fish; Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game; Alta 4-H Club; Grand Targhee Resort
Yellowstone NP	The Presence and Distribution of Lynx in Yellowstone NP	Conduct intensive surveys in prime habitat using snow tracking and hair snares for DNA sampling.	Yellowstone Park Foundation
Soil and Watershed Management			
GYCC	Greater Yellowstone Soil and Landscape model	Develop digital seamless map for landscape data (vegetation, soils, landforms, geology) for entire GYA at landscape scale.	Partnership with units
GYCC	GYA Inland West Watershed Initiative Report	Report compiles GYA watershed data, identifies management strategies including restoration opportunities.	Partnership with units
GYCC	GYA Watershed Vulnerability Rating	Compile a consistent, reliable GIS or data layer that portrays vulnerability to disturbance.	Partnership with units

Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Conservation Efforts

Unit	Project	Description	Partnerships
GYCC All units	Prepare a Yellowstone cutthroat trout population viability assessment	Coordinated approach to complete a consistent GYA-wide viability assessment that summarizes current status and condition of populations.	States of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, all units
Custer NF Gallatin NF	Yellowstone River Yellowstone Cutthroat Distribution Study	Survey Yellowstone River tributaries on Custer and Gallatin NF to collect information on distribution and genetic status of trout populations.	Montana Department of Fish Wildlife & Parks; Montana State University
Gallatin NF	Gallatin River Basin Westslope Cutthroat Trout Reintroduction	Collection and analysis of baseline data for currently known or suspected fishless stream reaches in the Gallatin River basin.	Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks; Bozeman Watershed Council; Yellowstone National Park
Grand Teton NP	Effects of Irrigation Ditches on Water Quality/Cutthroat Trout Habitat on Snake R. Tributaries	Determine effects of irrigation on water quality and cutthroat trout habitat. Assess need for mitigation.	Wyoming Game and Fish
Caribou-Targhee NF	Role of Beaver in Trout Habitat & Hydrologic Function	Inventory Teton River drainage to see if beaver can help restore watershed function and health.	Idaho Div. of Environmental Quality; Idaho Fish and Game; Teton Soil Conservation District; Natural Resource Conservation Service
Caribou-Targhee NF	Yellowstone Cutthroat Distribution /Habitat Surveys and Mapping	Complete an additional 30 surveys in the Snake River drainage to determine Yellowstone cutthroat distribution and habitat quality. Twenty new populations were inventoried in 2000.	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; Federation of Fly Fishers; Idaho Fish and Game; University of Idaho; Trout Unlimited; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Yellowstone NP	Yellowstone National Park Distribution Map for Cutthroat Trout and Grayling	Develop historic and current GIS distribution layers for Yellowstone and westslope cutthroat, and grayling.	Coordinating with Shoshone, Gallatin, and Bridger-Teton National Forests
Yellowstone NP	Determination of Distribution and Severity of Whirling Disease in Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout in Yellowstone Lake Basin	Time series exposure tests of vulnerable cutthroat fry conducted at eight sites. Examine older cutthroat for signs of the disease.	Montana Dept. Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Wyoming Game and Fish; USFWS Bozeman Fish Health Lab
Caribou-Targhee NF	Pine Creek Fish Weir, South Fork of the Snake River	Install weir to prevent non-native fish from traveling upstream to spawn with native cutthroat trout.	Idaho Fish and Game; Trout Unlimited; One Fly Foundation
Education and Awareness			
Custer NF Gallatin NF	Yellowstone Cutthroat Interpretive Display	Develop mobile interpretive display portraying current status and conservation efforts for Yellowstone cutthroat trout.	
GYCC All units	Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Interpretive Video/Documentary	Continue with FY 2000 project to develop a cutthroat trout documentary film for viewing on TV and for interpretive efforts.	Potential partners include nine states, five federal agencies, three foundations, and three conservation groups

Whitebark Pine Restoration and Management

Unit	Project	Description	Partnerships
Caribou-Targhee NF	Whitebark Pine Planting	Plant 20 acres of whitebark pine.	Global Releaf; National Arbor Day Foundation
Gallatin NF	Whitebark Pine Planting	Plant 10 acres of whitebark pine on lands acquired from Big Sky Lumber.	National Arbor Day Foundation
GYCC All units	Hyperspectral Remote Sensing of Whitebark Pine	Analyze data collected in FY 2000 and prepare final report addressing feasibility for future inventory and monitoring efforts.	Yellowstone Ecosystem Studies; USGS, Biological Resources Division, Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team
Shoshone NF	Whitebark Pine Planting	Plant 20 acres of whitebark pine.	National Arbor Day Foundation; Plant a Tree Foundation
Land Patterns			
Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF	Gravelly Mtns Land Exchange	Fund staff work to complete land exchange to acquire 219 acres of private land in the Gravelly Mountains.	
Gallatin NF	Royal Teton Ranch (RTR) Lands Work	Fund staff work associated with easements, rights-of-way, permits, and boundary management.	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Gallatin NF	Duck Creek Wetlands-Critical Land Acquisition	Forest is pursuing purchase of property and funding will provide for continued negotiations to develop a purchase option.	
Gallatin NF	Slip and Slide Ranch Conservation Easement	Negotiate and secure a conservation easement for 700 acres of key winter range.	Rocky Mtn. Elk Foundation; Mont. Dept., Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Gallatin NF	Historic OTO Ranch Management Plan	Develop a management plan for historic ranch compatible with northern winter range and threatened and endangered habitat.	Amizade, Ltd, and Elder Hostel helping with restoration.
Shoshone NF	Howard Land Exchange, South Fork Shoshone	Help fund necessary staff work to complete land exchange to improve land patterns in the South Fork Shoshone River.	The Nature Conservancy
Recreation and Visitor Services			
All National Forests	Ride the Right Trail	Develop strategy, educational material, and signing to encourage ethical use of off-highway vehicles.	
Bridger-Teton NF	Teton Division Visitor Support	Increase summer staffing and presence at Blackrock RS, a major portal into Grand Teton and Jackson Hole.	
Bridger-Teton NF	Teton Wilderness Salt Site Study, Phase 2	Sample an additional 30 salting sites, conduct analysis, and produce final reclamation report.	University of Montana; other groups will help with restoration work in future
Bridger-Teton NF	Resort Naturalist Program	Partnership with 10 local resorts and dude ranches to provide interpretive programs.	10 resorts; Snake River Fund; 2 Eagle Scout projects
Custer NF Gallatin NF Shoshone NF	Beartooth Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan	A Corridor Management Plan will coordinate interpretive and recreation opportunities and is needed to compete for All American Road designation.	Yellowstone Country; Rocky Fork Ranch; Red Lodge Lodging Assoc.; Red Lodge Chamber of Commerce; Cody Chamber of Commerce; Park County Travel Council
Gallatin NF Yellowstone NP	West Yellowstone Public Lands Info Desk	Provides funding necessary to staff key entry portal into the Greater Yellowstone Area at West Yellowstone.	Town of West Yellowstone
All national forests	Winter Use Monitoring	Implement a coordinated monitoring program for 6 national forests to collect information on use trends and where use is occurring.	Cooperating with states of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming on data collection